

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A brush rake for a grooming vehicle for smoothing loose, granular material, which comprises:

(a) a center brush having a hitch for connecting to the vehicle such that the center brush can be towed behind the vehicle;

(b) a pair of side brushes pivotally connected to the center brush by a pair of pivot connections with a first side brush being pivotally connected to one lateral outer end of the center brush and a second side brush being pivotally connected to an opposite lateral outer end of the center brush;

(c) wherein the center and side brushes have flexible brush bristles that are the only portion of the brush rake that engage the loose granular material;

(d) wherein the center brush is longitudinally offset relative to the side brushes such that the bristles of the center brush are not aligned end-to-end with and do not engage the bristles of the side brushes to permit the side brushes to pivot freely with respect to the center brush without any interference between the bristles of the center and side brushes; and

(e) wherein the side brushes have laterally innermost ends that overlap the lateral outer ends of the center brush so that the center and side brushes groom an unbroken swath in a surface formed of loose granular material; and

(f) wherein the pivot connections each comprise a longitudinal pivot pin that is fixed to one of the lateral outer ends of the center brush with at least a portion of the pivot pin being longitudinally extended relative to the center brush such that the longitudinally extended portion of the pivot pin is positioned substantially directly above the laterally innermost end of one of the side brushes to journal the side brush for pivoting relative to the center brush substantially at the laterally innermost end of the side brush, whereby a force acting on the bristles of the side brush tending to lift an outer end of the side brush will lift the outer end of the side brush without causing the laterally innermost end of the side brush to dig down into the loose granular material surface.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The brush rake of claim 1, wherein each side brush is pivotally connected to the center brush above a horizontal plane defined by the engagement of the brush bristles of each side brush and the loose granular material.

4. (original) The brush rake of claim 1, wherein the center brush is operatively secured to a support beam, and wherein the side brushes are pivotally connected to the center brush by being pivotally connected to the support beam.

5. (original) The brush rake of claim 4, wherein the center brush is rigidly connected to the support beam.

6. (original) The brush rake of claim 5, wherein the support beam has a top, and wherein the center brush is rigid-

ly connected to the support beam by at least one attachment member extending between and connected respectively to the top of the center brush and to the top of the support beam to rigidly fix the center brush and the support beam together.

7. (original) The brush rake of claim 4, wherein the support beam is shorter than the center brush to permit laterally innermost ends of the side brushes to overlap the lateral outer ends of the center brush.

8. (original) The brush rake of claim 1, wherein the center brush is heavier than either of the side brushes.

9-26 (canceled)

27. (currently amended) A method for grooming ~~a loose granular material surface~~and in a sand trap or bunker of a golf course, which comprises:

(a) providing a vehicle having substantially zero radius turn capability;

(b) ~~grooming~~brushing the ~~loose granular material surface~~and in a grooming swath using a trailing brush rake towed behind the vehicle;

(c) without the vehicle leaving the sand trap or bunker, turning the vehicle around on the ~~loose granular material surface~~and sufficiently tightly while the trailing rake engages the ~~loose granular material surface~~and to ~~groom~~brush the ~~loose granular material surface~~and in adjacent side-by-side grooming swaths without leaving an ungroomed teardrop between the adjacent swaths at an inside corner of the turn; and

(d) lifting an end of the trailing rake on the inside corner of the turn up out of engagement with the ~~loose granular material surface~~and during the sufficiently tight

turn of the vehicle to avoid pushing and leaving a ridge of ~~loose granular material~~sand behind the trailing rake on the inside corner of the turn, whereby ungroomed teardrops are eliminated from the ~~loose granular material surfaces~~sand by executing the sufficiently tight turn of the vehicle but without depositing ridges of loose granular material on the ~~loose granular material surfaces~~sand.

28. (canceled)